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REPORT TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ON THE FIFTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

DRAFT REPORT OF THE COMMISSION

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* Documents E/CN.4/1997/L.10 and addenda will contain the chapters of the report relating to the organization of the session and the various items on the agenda. Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission, as well as draft resolutions and decisions for action by, and other matters of concern to, the Economic and Social Council, will be contained in documents E/CN.4/1997/L.11 and addenda.

GE.97-11469 (E)

IV. QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES, INCLUDING PALESTINE

1. The Commission considered agenda item 4 concurrently with item 7 (see chap. VII) at its 3rd to 9th meetings, from 11 to 14 March, and at its 26th meeting, on 26 March 1997. 1/

2. For the documents issued under agenda item 4, see annex .. to the present report. For a list of resolutions adopted by the Commission see annex .. to the present report.

3. At the 3rd meeting, on 11 March 1997, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Mr. Hannu Halinen, introduced his report (E/CN.4/1997/16). At the 9th meeting, on 14 March 1997, the Special Rapporteur made his concluding remarks.

4. In the general debate on agenda item 4, statements 2/ were made by the following members of the Commission: Algeria (8th), Bangladesh (7th), Canada (6th), China (4th), Cuba (4th), Egypt (5th), India (6th), Indonesia (4th), Japan (6th), Malaysia (6th), Netherlands (3rd), Nicaragua (8th), Pakistan (6th), Republic of Korea (5th), Russian Federation (8th), United States of America (6th), Zimbabwe (5th).

5. The Commission heard statements by the observers for: Iran (Islamic Republic of) (8th), Israel (9th), Jordan (5th), Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (8th), Morocco (4th), Norway (6th), Senegal (4th), Sudan (4th), Swaziland (3rd), Syrian Arab Republic (3rd), Tunisia (5th), Yemen (4th). The observer for Palestine also made a statement (3rd).

6. The Commission also heard a statement by the following intergovernmental organization: League of Arab States (3rd).

7. The Commission also heard statements by the following non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International (3rd), Arab Lawyers Union (9th), Centre Europe-Tiers Monde (4th), Franciscans International (6th), International Commission of Jurists (7th), International Federation of Human Rights Leagues (3rd), Pax Christi International (5th), Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (4th), World Jewish Congress (3rd), World Organization against Torture (4th).

8. Statements in exercise of the equivalent of the right of reply were made by the observers for Iran (Islamic Republic of) (9th), Israel (3rd) and the Syrian Arab Republic (7th). The Observer for Palestine also made statements (3rd, 9th).

9. At its 26th meeting, on 26 March 1997, the Commission took up consideration of the draft resolutions submitted under agenda item 4.

Question of the violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine

10. The representative of Indonesia introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/1997/L.3, sponsored by Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, China, Cuba, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and Yemen. Mauritania and the Sudan subsequently joined the sponsors.

11. In accordance with rule 28 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the attention of the Commission was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications 3/ of the draft resolution.

12. Statements in explanation of vote before the vote were made by the representatives of the Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union) and the United States of America.

13. At the request of the representative of the United States of America, a roll-call vote was taken on the draft resolution, which was adopted by 25 votes to 1, with 23 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Algeria, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Brazil, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Cuba, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Angola, Argentina, Austria, Belarus, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Madagascar, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay.

14. Statements in explanation of vote after the vote were made by the representatives of Chile and Colombia.

15. For the text of the resolution as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 1997/1.

Human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan

16. The observer for the Syrian Arab Republic introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/1997/L.5, sponsored by Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cuba, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mauritania and Pakistan subsequently joined the sponsors.

17. A statement in explanation of vote before the vote was made by the representative of the Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union).

18. At the request of the representative of the United States of America, a roll-call vote was taken on the draft resolution, which was adopted by 26 votes to 1, with 23 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Angola, Austria, Belarus, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Madagascar, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay.

19. For the text of the resolution as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 1997/2.

Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories

20. The representative of the Netherlands introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/1997/L.6, sponsored by Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal,

Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Jordan, Nepal and New Zealand subsequently joined the sponsors.

21. Statements in explanation of vote before the vote were made by the representatives of Algeria, Egypt and Mexico.

22. The representative of the United States of America requested a vote on the draft resolution. At the request of the representative of Egypt, a roll-call vote was taken on the draft resolution, which was adopted by 47 votes to 1, with 2 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Dominican Republic, Uruguay.

23. For the text of the resolution as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 1997/3.

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